



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

2014 Program Year

CITY OF WENATCHEE

Community Development Block Grant

South Wenatchee Emphasis

INTRODUCTION

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. As part of the CDBG Entitlement Program, the City of Wenatchee receives annual grants to develop our community by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. In order to provide a concerted effort towards enhancing the quality of life for the community within the City of Wenatchee, the CDBG Code Enforcement program dedicates funding to help achieve compliance with basic life, health, safety and property maintenance codes without undue hardship upon citizens. Partnerships between the City of Wenatchee and volunteer groups, property owners and tenants helps to resolve problems related to unsightly, hazardous and unsanitary conditions. This report provides an update on Code Enforcement Emphasis efforts within the CDBG target area.

OVERVIEW

Typically Code Enforcement staff address code violations through complaints from concerned citizens or by identifying violations and hazards through observation while working in the neighborhood. In 2006 the City of Wenatchee Code Enforcement Division decided to become more active in the preservation of the city by informing people of violations in an effort to achieve greater voluntary compliance. Combined with a system to better track cases, staff had availability to address more cases. In 2010 the City's Code Enforcement Compliance Officer increased their time spent on code enforcement to 100% and then in 2011 an additional 40% of the City Combination Inspector's time became allocated to code enforcement efforts in the South Wenatchee area.

Since 2011, Wenatchee has been educating home owners and occupants about code compliance related to junk vehicles, garbage and debris, overgrown vegetation, construction without permits, substandard structures, faulty weather protection (paint) and minor structural issues. Brochures are distributed to provide pictorial explanations for noted violations as well as staff contact information (example brochure pictured to the right).

The Code Enforcement Emphasis Effort is designed to maintain safe and viable neighborhoods that are still affordable and desirable to current and future property owners and families. By creating interactive working relationships with owners, occupants and city staff to resolve violations prior to Code Enforcement action, we can obtain input from residents on what community issues matter most to them, assess needs individually and neighborhood wide, empower residents to maintain a safe neighborhood, preserve neighborhood quality of life and preserve their property value.



2014 YEAR SUMMARY

During 2014, the City of Wenatchee and the Community Development Block Grant program underwent changes that impacted outreach, emphasis and reporting. The CDBG target area was modified based on direction from HUD and new census data. As a result, the geographical priorities for code enforcement emphasis underwent revision. In addition to a program amendment, the code enforcement department experienced a change in staff and began implementing a new software known as SmartGov. Due to such significant changes taking place simultaneously, the following statistics for 2014 code enforcement efforts do not provide a complete representation of the code enforcement efforts during the year.

In the midst of change, Code Enforcement staff continued to attend to properties with identified violations of city code and educated owners and occupants about our code enforcement program. Information brochures, detailed violation explanations and referrals to service organizations were provided and achievement of code compliance continued through the establishment of working relationships.

In 2014 there was a total of 492 code violations observed in the City of Wenatchee. Of these, 311 of them were within the CDBG target area. Violations in this area consisted of the following:

- Litter, accumulation of debris, furniture, appliances and piles of brush
- Storage of inoperable or junk vehicles
- Grass and weeds over 12in. dead trees, bushes and shrubs
- Obstructions to public sidewalks
- Deteriorated structures and fences
- Homes with deteriorated and chipped paint
- Construction without first obtaining a permit

The annual recycle event took place on Saturday, April 12, 2014. Partnerships with Wenatchee Valley Salvage & Recycling, Wenatchee Valley College Automotive Technology Club, Stemilt Organic Recycling Center and the Salvation Army creates an opportunity for City of Wenatchee residents to dispose of automotive batteries, scrap iron, refrigerators, air conditioners, appliances, televisions, desktop computers and monitors, and passenger and light truck tires for free. In addition, residents can dispose of two standard size pickup loads of brush, tree limbs, branches, grass clippings and yard waste per household for free at Stemilt Organic Recycling. Any disable or elderly individuals that are not able to attend the event have an opportunity to contact Catholic Family Chore Services for help with disposal.

- 35 volunteers helped to make this event a success
- 15.44 tons of scrap metal was recycled
- 150 vehicles entered the site throughout the day.
- 3400 scrap tires were collected for recycling
- The Salvation Army took a truck load of TVs and monitors away

Code Enforcement statistics for January through August related to the CDBG target area reflect an emphasis on just the South Wenatchee neighborhood area and are broken down into zones 1-18. The rest of the city was divided into zones 19-36 (statistics not included in table below are included in total violations on page 1). When the aforementioned changes were implemented, Code Enforcement emphasis expanded to the CDBG target area and was classified as CDBG area or non-CDBG. Zoning of the redefined target area will be completed in 2015.

Co-operation with Waste Management allowed issuance of dump coupons for citizens to take a pickup load of household bulky items on top of their regular garbage service to the Transfer Station at no charge. There was 13+ dump vouchers provided to residents during 2014 at a minimum value of \$20 each.

ZONE	Garbage & Debris	Vehicles	Vegetation	Building	Living in Camper/ Motorhome	Roosters	Education	TOTAL
1	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	9
2	7	4	2	4	0	0	0	17
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	11	3	1	3	1	1	0	20
5	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
6	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
8	4	3	1	3	0	0	0	11
9	8	2	0	3	0	0	0	13
10	3	1	7	1	0	0	0	12
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
13	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
14	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
18	1	1	1	20	0	1	0	24
CDBG	30	10	24	45	0	3	0	112
Non-CDBG	36	16	78	34	4	4	9	181
TOTAL	131	43	118	118	6	9	9	434

CDBG funding provided \$38,200 towards Code Enforcement efforts with \$36,700 towards Code Enforcement salary and another \$1500 towards the referral and debris removal program.

CONCLUSION

The American Institute of Architect Sustainable Design Team surveyed and worked with the South Wenatchee area in 2012 and their report provided confirmation that the work of Code Enforcement is an asset to sustainability of the neighborhoods. Obvious efforts to paint, cleanup, landscape and rehabilitate homes has been observed and the updates to the Code Enforcement program in 2014 will provide support for this positive trend. Continuing to implement SmartGov will help processes to be more efficient, create ease in tracking cases and provide the ability to generate reports with unique specifications. Combining SmartGov with the new zoning map and CDBG target area will allow for a complete and thorough report at year end 2015.